

STRATEGY  
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**THE RECRUITMENT PRACTICES OF EXTREMIST GROUPS**

BY

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## ABSTRACT

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Strategic leaders have been entrusted with an awesome responsibility from the American people. They must assess societal values, perceptions, and competing interests. As "gatekeepers," they must also monitor the boundary of the military organization and its external environment. Such proves to be the example when military and ex-military personnel are involved with extremist organizations or participate in extremist activities. Individuals in strategic leadership positions can change or sustain the organization's culture and communicate its values. Over the past several months, the media, the public, and the military have been concerned about "the dangerous and growing threat to the republic: Extremist Groups." This study will examine the origins and recruitment practices of extremist groups and the responsibility of all citizens to monitor them.

## THE SETTING AND ITS PROBLEM

A shifting tide is coming to USA

-The USA has the second largest Black population of any country in the world. (Nigeria is first)

-The USA has the fourth largest Spanish population in the world. (Spain is first)

-The USA has the largest Jewish population in the world.

-Less than 30% of the residents in the USA checked "White American" in the last census.

-Twenty-five major cities in the USA have a majority of non-white population. By the year 2000 it is estimated that 50 major cities will be predominantly non-white majority.<sup>1</sup>

A diverse culture breeds a wave of hate, fear, and the creation of extremist organizations throughout America. As rich cultural heritages spring up in towns and cities all across America, this nation becomes a competitive and conflictual ground which sometime complicates race relations. Political scientist Donald Green and psychologist Richard Abelson's research conducted at Yale University supports the hypothesis that "drastic changes in the ethnic or racial composition of a community are accompanied by a rise in hate crimes." Thus, they concluded that as the nation becomes more racially diverse with a sluggish economy, prejudice will likely become more acceptable in our culture.<sup>2</sup> As a result, one can find quotations distributed in literature all over the country:

"IF IT AIN'T WHITE..WASTE IT!

Remember, it's Stop the Mudslide...or drown!

187 187 187

WE NEED A REAL BORDER.

FIRST WE GET THE SPICS,

THEN WE GET THE GOOKS, AND AT

LAST WE GET THE NIGGERS.

DEPORTATION.

THEY'RE ALL GOING HOME!<sup>3</sup>

"Jews are considered to be the Children of Satan, and Black people and people of color are considered to be 'pre-Adamic' - a lower form of species than that of white people."<sup>4</sup>

This paper will examine the recruitment practices of extremist organizations through a descriptive analysis of the following: who the extremist groups are, how they recruit, and whom they recruit, including possible military personnel recruitment initiatives.

#### THE METHODOLOGY

##### The Population

The population of this study includes those extremist groups or organizations within the United States that espouse supremacist causes; advocate illegal discrimination based on race, religion, color, gender, or national origin; encourage the use of unlawful force or violence; and deprive individuals of their civil rights during the period January 1980 through April 1996.

## The Sample

The sample consists of the hate groups who have received the most media attention because of their demonstrations, activities, hate literature, and recruiting practices. The researcher will describe groups such as the neo-Nazi Skinheads, Aryan Nations, Militia of Montana (MOM), White Aryan Resistance (WAR), Militia Movements, Christian Identity, and the White Supremacists. The glossary will show descriptions and terms used by other groups.

## The Research Design

The research design is a descriptive account of extremist organizations, how they recruit, and whom they recruit. It also examines their recruitment of women, youths, and possible military personnel.

## JUSTIFICATION OF METHODOLOGY

In the past, hate crimes and hate groups seemed relatively insignificant. However, hate crimes and hate groups continue to be media, government, and community focused because of incidents such as the "Branch Davidians" killings in Waco, the Randy Weaver shootings in Idaho, and the Oklahoma City bombing. In addition, some private and government organizations maintain a keen watch on the growth and activities of these groups.<sup>5</sup> In essence they have provided much of the public information on the extremist organizations, filling a void left by laws that prohibit FBI surveillance of domestic groups. Noteworthy among organizations is the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI). This organization held its second Biennial World Wide Equal

Opportunity Conference from 14-18 April 1996, in Cocoa Beach, Florida. One of the main topics for discussion was dealing with extremist groups in the military.<sup>6</sup>

There are some Congressional leaders, monitoring organizations, and social scientists who believe not enough research has been done on hate group activities. Levin and McDevitt state that "behavioral scientists have conducted very little research on the activities of white-supremacist organizations." Their research showed that during the 1980s membership in almost all hate groups remained either stable or declined, proving that there was not a need for greater studies concerning hate groups. The membership in the extremist groups did not begin to grow until the early 1990s when there was opposition to the power of the federal government.<sup>7</sup>

#### Data Collection Procedures

To remain objective in describing the recruitment practices, the researcher used information gathered by specialists in their respective fields. The data obtained for this study came from private and government organizations, Internet (E-Mail), current literature, personal interviews, and transcripts.

### THE FINDINGS

#### Extremist Organizations

The radical activities of extremist organizations have alarmed the decade of the 90s. Books, magazines, newspapers, journals, documentary films, and organizations who monitor these

groups all proclaim one theme: "hate crimes and hate groups" are on the increase. "The Klanwatch Intelligence Report" provided by the Southern Poverty Law Center, a hate monitoring group, lists at least 224 militias and their support groups operating in 39 states. Forty-five of these groups have ties to neo-Nazi and other white supremacist organizations. In 1994, the militias and support groups with racist ties were in existence in only 22 states.<sup>8</sup>

#### Hate Groups

One of the grassroots movements is the **Militia movement**. It has concerns similar to that of tax protest and anti-government campaigns of the 1970s and 1980s. During the past six months this movement has swept across the country. A catalyst of the movement was the formation of the Militia of Montana, which organized after the standoff with Randy Weaver in Idaho and the Branch Davidian siege in Waco. The Militia of Montana (M.O.M) is among the most visible and the most extreme of such groups in the country. The Trochmann brothers, John, David, and his son Randy, run the M.O.M. in Montana. Their publications promote a Nazi doctrine for violence against Jews, African Americans, homosexuals and others. The group uses the psychology of fear tactics, that is, playing on the fears of people. They make wild claims about the supposed activity of foreign military troops in Montana and across the country.<sup>9</sup>

The next group is the **Skinheads** which has evolved as a youth subculture. They first emerged in the late 1960s in Britain and

experienced a re-emergence or revival in the late 1970s with a large segment adopting neo-Nazi politics along with the pre-existing aggressive, proletarian or working class. The skinhead style consists of close cropped hair, suspenders, jeans, and heavy working boots. Young people in the U. S. began adopting their style in 1989. According to DEOMI, the "Skinhead movement has become the nation's most violent white supremacist organization." The number of skinheads has grown from 1,500 members in 12 states in 1988 to 3,500 members in 40 states in 1993. However, not all skinheads are racists.<sup>10</sup>

The **White Supremacist** could be an individual, group, or organization embodying the ideological belief that whites are biological, genetic, intellectually superior over other population groups. Loretta Ross of the Democratic Renewal Center, cites:

They {supremacist} actually do believe that they have a God-given right to maintain the supremacy of the white race by legal or illegal means...that they're the only Christians in the world, so that they can kill with impunity any other people who are non-white.

Most white supremacists or people who subscribe to those beliefs are not necessarily the gun-toting type...they are people who think they have divine permission from God to hate somebody else.<sup>11</sup>

Ross believes that the militia movement is the fastest-growing wing of the white supremacist movement. She estimates that there are "100,000 of them, which is four times as many Klan people, Christian patriots, neo-Nazi skinheads put together."<sup>12</sup>

The **Aryan Nations** movement uses "religious" themes as their basic tenet. It is specifically a neo-Nazi organization that is

the political arm of the Hayden Lake, Idaho Church of Jesus Christ Christian. Richard Butler is the leader and pastor who also has ties with the Christian Identity Movement. The group's main thrust is to bridge the gap between Identity and neo-Nazi ideas.

The **Christian Identity** is a theo-political and sister movement to the Aryans. It became widespread in 1983 while law enforcement authorities were conducting a manhunt for Gordon Kahl. Kahl, a **Posse Comitatus** {see glossary} member, had shot two Federal Marshals in North Dakota. It has a dual role of providing religious unity for differing racist political groups and bringing religious people into contact with the racist movement. Adherents also believe that white Anglo-Saxons are God's chosen people, people of color are a sub-species of humans and Jews are children of Satan.<sup>13</sup>

#### Recruitment in Extremist Organizations

Individuals who join extremist groups are not the typical stereotype of uneducated and economically poor. Instead, Aboodelly's research found,

They are people who believe in the Constitution and the principles of this country, they dress up in military style uniforms; they want to practice with their firearms. Some are "Christian", some are KKK, some are present and ex-military. Some are policemen and some are just plain old ordinary people who are concerned about their families and their country. <sup>14</sup>

Chandler found that membership in militias is usually militaristic and chauvinistic, complete with self proclaimed adjutant generals, colonels and pastors. The average size of the

groups can range from five to fifteen members usually predominantly white males between the ages of eighteen and forty five. Some groups play down their links with racist groups. They want to keep the organization's appearance somewhat respectable for recruitment purposes.<sup>15</sup>

Many different motives drive individuals to join extremist groups. There are several authorities who believe that the tactic of fear is a main tool for recruitment. Chip Berlet noted that the Militia manipulates fears by having people to direct their anger toward:

Federal officials and law enforcement officers, Minority groups and Jewish institutions, abortion providers and pro-choice supporters, environmentalists and conservation activist, gay and lesbian rights organizers; and, people of color, immigrants, and welfare recipients.<sup>16</sup>

According to Abodelly, still others join for the following reasons:

- (1) "Do not like what they believe to be a "creeping socialism" in this country.
- (2) Do not like the U. N, and do not want U. S. forces ever under any foreign command.
- (3) Do not like the idea that the country is growing in its racial diversity of Jews, Arabs, African Americans, and Hispanics. Think the "world-bankers" and "Jewish conspiracy" theory that world is controlled by the elite.
- (4) Are strong advocates of gun rights and members of the National Rifle Association.
- (5) See the federal government trampling on citizen's rights, especially in the "firearms" area."<sup>17</sup>

Many groups espouse a religious cause as a method of recruiting. Zeskind believes that some groups use their distinct beliefs as recruiting tools among people whose initial interest

is primarily religious. As a result, groups "can funnel new recruits into a racist and anti-Semitic movement through ostensibly non-political means."<sup>18</sup>

Michael Barkun, a political scientist at Syracuse University, makes a very important point about the use of religion in extremist groups. He sees them as having "a particularly virulent form of racism and anti-Semitism, on the one hand, with a millennial or Apocalyptic drive on the other." This Apocalyptic view, he believes links "their polarized view of the world - their sense of the world as divided between forces of light and darkness - with a sense that the upcoming confrontation is of ultimate cosmic consequence."<sup>19</sup>

#### Use of Lectures and Rallies as Recruitment Tools

Extremist groups use both subtle and not so subtle methods to inform, support, encourage and recruit individuals. Their mode of delivery includes methods such as distributing cassette tapes of messages, leaflets, articles, newsletters and books. Other groups use lectures, rallies, public access television shows, radio shows, and computer E-mail to reach their audiences.

The Aryan leader, Tom Pierce, wrote in their August 1990 issue of WAR, a tabloid distributed on doorsteps and in mailboxes of mostly Northwest cities and towns, suggesting a solution to America's problems. He said:

It is clear that if most White males would respond to their rage in a direct, physical way, as skinheads do, then we would have no race problem, no Jewish problem, no homosexual problem and no problem with White race traitors in America. Our cities would be clean, decent, safe, and White once again after a relatively brief period

of bloodletting.<sup>20</sup>

In support of the militia, Dr. Gene Schorder, circulates his message on cassette tapes marked "For Distribution," as he proclaims a message that certainly sounds innocent enough for anyone who is concerned about America and freedom:

Most Americans love their country. The rights we have under our constitution were paid for with the blood of our founding fathers and with the lives of untold patriotic servicemen and women...But what is an unexpected enemy threatens to remove all liberties and substitute in its place a complete police state dictatorship that knows no law, limited by its own whims.<sup>21</sup>

In 1994, a neo-Nazi group requested permission to hold a rally on campus from the Portland University Campus Events office. Portland University denied the request. However, the group's public relation representative, Mrs. Becker, went to a church located a few blocks from the school. Without asking any questions, the church's government body approved the lecture sponsored by the "Pacific Northwest Historical Society." On the evening of the event, the church was shocked to learned that they were host to an international neo-Nazi movement. The Society hired its own guards, fifteen racist skinheads.<sup>22</sup>

A traveling three-day exhibition conference known as "Preparedness Expo" is a rallying station for extremist organizations. The exhibition hosts groups including militia members, so-called Christian patriots, tax protesters, white supremacists, survivalists, and holistic health practitioners. The exhibitions are held in cities such as Orlando, Dallas, Long Beach, and Seattle. Seattle entertains the largest gatherings of

about 5,000 people. It also invites speakers to rally the extremist cause. One notorious speaker is Mark Koernke, a maintenance worker and militia activist who calls himself "Mark From Michigan." According to Jonathan Mozzochi, executive director of the Portland-based Coalition for Human Dignity, "the Expos have become a crucial forum for paramilitary organizations."<sup>23</sup>

Radio talk shows will sponsor individuals to rally their cause and espouse feelings of hatred. According to Leslie Jorgenson who monitors the radio station "KVOR" in Colorado Springs, some of the guests are well known individuals of the armed right. A list of guests appearing on the station include Linda Thompson, adjutant general of the Unorganized Militia of the United States; Arizona's Graham County sheriff Richard Mack, who is against the Brady Bill; Larry Pratt, leader of Gunowners of America; Rev. Pete Peters, who warns against mixing with Jews and minority races and believes God wants gays condemned to death.<sup>24</sup>

Perhaps, the most popular method of informing and recruiting is through computers. Anchor person Greg LaMotte on CNN, stated that "On-line computer systems are becoming the latest venue for hate groups to disseminate their literature and, in some cases, solicit new membership." Interviewee Valerie Fields who worked as an assistant to former Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley was shocked at some of the things she read on her computer concerning hatred:

When individuals express themselves, even if they say hateful things, that they are bigots or stupid or ignorant, that's their right to express their stupidity or their ignorance or their bigotry. But a group that would be soliciting membership really anonymously was the thing that upset me.<sup>25</sup>

In the article "Enemies of The State," Jill Smolow found that extremist groups use the World Wide Web to disseminate helpline information. Her research shows that "Bomb recipes have been transmitted across computer bulletin boards." One of the biggest operations is The Michigan Militia. They have 15 phone lines, computers, fax machines, their own printing press, and television production center. Many of them use public-access television, allowing them to share their message at minimum or no cost though cable and satellite TV.<sup>26</sup>

The literature of some extremist groups is abundant in requests for donations, membership applications implied, and information about meetings. Such materials come from the Knights of the KKK, American Nazi Party, the Aryan Free Press, the Aryan Resistance Movement, and the Fourth Reich.

#### Women and Recruitment in Hate Groups

"Without the women, we wouldn't have a Klan."<sup>27</sup>

Although hate groups are male dominated, women play a key role to the survivability of many groups. They are increasingly active and sometimes, take on leadership roles in hate groups. Cochran and Ross tell us that "women have joined the racist movements in record numbers in the past 10 years."<sup>28</sup>

The Anti-Defamation League estimates that the nation's militia women membership accounts for 10 to 20 percent which

equates to roughly 15,000 people in nearly 40 states. The U. S. Militia Association in Idaho proclaims that women in their organization number one out of every three of its 1,500 members around the country.<sup>29</sup>

Most of the women have the same reasons for joining extremist groups as men. There is the an apparent cause of distrust of the federal government and a great respect for the Constitution. Still for others, there is the comfort zone of seeing emphases placed on traditional family values and opposition to abortion and the gay rights and feminist movements. Some of these women share the concerns that their children will have fewer liberties and rights than those enjoyed by previous generations. To avoid accusation of racism, some organizations recruit women of all colors.

A different view for some women's recruitment is the need for identity. This is especially true of the Aryan Women's League in California which sponsors the "white-only baby clothes drive, and runs a program called 'Operation White Nurse' in preparation for an Apocalyptic race war."<sup>30</sup>

Women provide the role of taking care of the home and assuring the organization of a next generation of racial warriors. The Aryan Women's League advertises that they will pay \$1 to each white family in America who has a baby, whether or not the family actually believes in white supremacy. They proclaim,

We're back! ...Since we all know procreating our Race is the only way in which we will survive, the Aryan Women's League has this project to help our courageous brothers and sisters who are having children. Just cut out the

magazine's white-birth announcement {coupons}.<sup>31</sup>

Loretta Ross interviewed on CNN explained that women are emerging in some groups as leaders in their own rights instead of being someone's wife. As part of the leadership, women between the age of mid to late 20s rise through the ranks by committing a certain number of street level violent acts. Then, they can direct other young women to commit violence. Also many women have carved their various niches in the extremist organizations. They are sophisticated and very educated, bringing "skills that only the most intellectual of the white supremacist previously displayed." As writers, dispatchers, and networkers these women have "helped fuse many 'fringe' far right ideologies together, that with time and repetition, have become mainstream values."<sup>32</sup>

#### Youth and Recruitment in Hate Groups

"I feel it's about time we skins/Nazi skins stood up and told it like it is...I agree with Jeff's reasons for sporting swastikas as a symbol of Blitzkreig style revolution. That's why I joined the punk movement...it presents me with an aggressive, angry, stomping, fighting type of movement."<sup>33</sup>

Scott's quotation symbolizes the essence of what extremist organizations use to recruit young people. They know that, for young people, the need to belong is primacy. For example, when Elizabeth Moore, a sickly and only child, was asked why she belonged to an extremist group, she commented that she had friends and "a sense of belonging...a reason for being."<sup>34</sup>

Floyd Cochran, a former white supremacist Neo-Nazi, adds that young people join extremist groups because they are assured that they have a family who cares for them and love them, always

being there for them. He states, "Most racist individuals come from dysfunctional families where the need to belonging is not met." Racist organizations give youths a sense of identity by encouraging them to "strap on a firearm and guarding perimeters to the coordination of racist activities."<sup>35</sup>

Psychologist Raphael Ezekiel supports Cochran's thesis concerning why young people are attracted to hate groups. He believes that white supremacist groups are quite dangerous, "often its young members are 'sad little humans' who are lonely and in need of a stabilizing mentor." After many interviews with youths belonging to a neo-Nazi group in Detroit, Ezekiel discovered that their lives are fragile and fleeting."<sup>36</sup>

Identity and belonging to a group are key factors for the skinheads. They wear and display flags, uniforms, and other symbols to show their unity and common bond. Cochran notes that the skinheads have a distinct uniform: "combat boots, cuffed blue jeans, surplus flight jackets and shaved heads."

Ann Van Dyke, of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission who spoke at the Army War College on April 2, 1996, shares Cochran's view as well. Ms Van Dyke notes that hate groups will say to young people,

We want you to be part of our family. We will be family with you,' and this is at a time where many of these young people don't feel like they have family or are estranged from their natural families.

The group will give young people responsibilities to perform, and if they perform well, they rise in prestige and authority within the organization. Van Dyke says that some

skinheads will even tell their followers that God is on their side of the race war. She furthers states:

Mainstream Americans want to believe that organized hate groups are totally disconnected from mainstream Americans, but it's not true. They exist because of us. We create the environment in which bigotry can take hold or cannot take hold. Don't ever think that hate groups like skinheads create tension out of thin air. They feed off the resentment of everyday people, and what we see, in effect, is that hate groups like skinheads say publicly what so many other people say privately.<sup>37</sup>

Perhaps the most effective way to recruit and get the attention of young people is through music. According to co-anchor Judy Woodruff of CNN, "Hate rock has become the main recruiting tool to bring youth into the skinhead movement in the U. S." She cites that the music is "a hard, driving beat, and hard hitting lyrics and a relentless rhythm with a relentless message - hate." Interviewee Burdi of the Resistance Records company on the show stated that "We're managing to put out tens of thousands of dollars of product on a monthly basis." David Lewis elaborated that the skinhead music is a "...celebration of white violence against minorities and Jews...sometimes the match that lights the torch of hate." Escobar added that the music "is catchy, people just can't stop listening to it, and if they like the music, they start listening to the ideas behind it."<sup>38</sup>

As a music group, "Guns and Roses", provides one of the best examples of racist lyrics:

Immigrants and faggots,  
They make no sense to me  
They come to our country,  
And think they'll do what they please.

Put up a fence, close down the borders,  
They don't fit in our new order....

Nigger, nigger, get on that boat,  
Nigger, nigger, row!  
Nigger, nigger, get out of here,  
Nigger, nigger, go, go, go!<sup>39</sup>

The music serves as a means for bonding with a common cause. Some of the concerts bring music groups such as "Screwdriver, Oi, ~~the~~, and Blood and Honor." They provide an appealing message for racist ideas. Through this music the neo-Nazi skinheads can expand their subcultural influence beyond the areas of most other groups.<sup>40</sup>

#### Military and recruitment in Hate groups

"A man can join the armed forces and serve the United Nations or he can join the militia and defend America."<sup>41</sup>

With quotations such as this one above the writer can perceive why some military personnel would be pressured to at least think of joining extremist organizations. In April 1995, the media raised the issue of possible link of military and extremist groups. After the arrest of Timothy McVeigh, a former military veteran, for connection with the Oklahoma City bombing, military officials became concerned about extremist groups in the armed forces and did some investigation. However, a formal inquiry did not begin until December when three soldiers from Fort Bragg, North Carolina were charged in the killing of an African-American couple. It was later learned that Private James N. Burmeister II from Thompson, Pennsylvania, had extremist materials in his possession.

One of the military installations investigated was Fort Carson, Colorado. While Colorado ranks third in the nation in the number of extremist groups, there was not an overwhelming amount of evidence to suggest that soldiers make prime targets for white supremacist recruiters. One white army sergeant claims that "the underground presence of white supremacists at this prairie post is as clear as the Ku Klux Klan and Aryan Brotherhood graffiti scrawled on portable toilets on firing ranges." However, the local military strip of shops such as gun shops, used car lots, pawn shops and the strip joints did not support this soldier's view.<sup>42</sup> On the other hand, in response to the investigations, Dennis Morgan, an Army specialist from New Jersey, said at Fort Benning, Georgia, "People are not going to come up to you and say, 'Hey, we're neo-Nazis, we're with the Klan' - it's subtler than that." He believes "the Army does its best to screen out the paramilitary and the right-wing types. But occasionally, somebody's going to hook up with the wrong people."<sup>43</sup>

The issue of possible link is disturbing to military officials because as one senior military official said,

"It seems to undermine the military's success in promoting racial integration. It is also of concern because of the lethal skills that military service imparts and the access it affords to weapons and explosives."<sup>44</sup>

Based on their having a copy of what is known as "The Resister" obtained by ABC News, "The official publication of the Special Forces underground,' published anonymously and secretly circulated in the military and on the Internet," Brian Ross from

ABC Broadcast News believes "there is a big effort to recruit former and active duty soldiers into the extremist private militias."<sup>45</sup>

Quite the contrary to everyone's opinion about an extremist not being able to serve in the military, one soldier, by the name of Nick, said "My personal beliefs are mine. They don't interfere with my professional life...People can have their own racist views and still work in the military. It's always been this way."<sup>46</sup> Also at Fort Bragg in the 82nd Airborne Division, a probe revealed 22 out of 14,000 soldiers are "believed to hold 'active, passive or former links' to skinhead or extremist groups." Many of the soldiers at Fort Bragg are quick to point out that there are different kinds of skinhead groups. According to Army investigation, there are three main factions of skinheads.

The first group is the traditional skinheads who believe in white separatist views and espouse neo-Nazi ideology. The other two groups are known as "The Skinheads Against Racial Prejudice" (SHARPs) and the "Independents." The SHARPs support the opposite view of white supremacy or any kind of racism while the Independents, according to the soldiers, are just "into scene." The two groups say there are like the Kiwanis. They like hanging out and drinking together. Music is their common bond, and they enjoy the skinhead music played by groups such as Ska and Oi.<sup>47</sup> Joe T. Roy, director of the Militia Task Force for the Southern Poverty Law Center, believes that "Army troops are prime targets

for recruitment by such groups {paramilitary}, they preach survivalism, training, stockpiling weapons..The paramilitary mindset is attractive to veterans and active-duty personnel."<sup>48</sup>

According to "The Secretary of the Army's Task force on Extremist Activities" reports:

Overall, little active recruiting of soldiers by extremist organizations is evident. A possible exception could be Special Operations Forces, which some senior commanders believe are targeted by the militia movement. The Task force was unable to irrefutably confirm or deny this belief during the course of this assessment.<sup>49</sup>

Centers monitor hate groups throughout the U.S. by reading local newspaper articles and subscribing to hate group literature. To individuals and whole communities, the presence of extremist groups can be very intimidating unless voices for justice and respect are raised to counter words of hate. However, Kenneth Jost says it very well:

Whether the offenses are homophobic slurs, anti-Semitic vandalism or racially motivated assaults, experts say that bias-motivated crimes have an especially devastating effect on society at large, as well as on individual victims...Whatever label is used, the incidents demonstrate that violence remains very much a part of the history of prejudice in American society.<sup>50</sup>

Perhaps June Jordan, professor of African American Studies at University of California-Berkeley, clarifies it best concerning the views and basic tenets of extreme groups:

Racism means rejecting, avoiding, belittling, or despising whatever and whoever differs from your conscious identity.

White supremacy means that God put you on the planet to rule, to dominate, and to occupy the center of the national and international universe-because you're 'white.'

Anything or anyone appearing to challenge your center-stage position and its privileges becomes ungodly, or the Devil, or the Devil Incarnate, as in "The Jews," "The Niggers," "The Wetbacks," "The Chinks."

White supremacy moves beyond racism formulations of "superior" or "inferior." White supremacy takes hatred of the unfamiliar to the level of religious war between "good" and "evil." Underlying such a world view is an infantile mentality as obviously infantile as it is "normal" in these United States.

Do not be misled. There is no difference between hating "the government" and hating "the Jews" and "the Niggers" in the mind-mesh of the Christian-white-rights crusade.<sup>51</sup>

#### CONCLUSIONS

The researcher discovered various facts about extremist groups and their recruitment practices in America:

(1) Not everyone in white supremacist organizations commits violent acts. Yet, some literature has shown that violence can and often springs out of such groups.

(2) Some groups have increased their visibility through marketing of literature, small rallies, and selling or hate trinkets.

(3) Some members in extreme groups are not even aware that their organizations have links with white supremacist movements.

(4) Extremist groups have a very effective communication system through the information superhighway. The use of shortwave radio, fax networks, and computer bulletin boards are astounding. One can read data on Internet for weeks as the data is constantly being revised and updated.

(5) As with any organization, there are those who are the exception rather than the rule. Also, there are individuals who are looking for an organization or groups to use as their platform to deal with their own agenda. Such individuals will use any means to get attention and exploit the genuine concerns of others about the plight of this nation.

Although current literature show an increase in hate crimes, there is not enough to prove that the recruitment practices of extremist groups have increased their membership. Even with an increase in supporters and sympathizers, there is no research yet to give hard core membership numbers. A reason for lack of data is that many of the extremist groups are not solid organizations. New groups form and others disappear. Also, the groups' character changes based on leadership, age, and area of the country. This is not to say that hate organizations should be ignored or taken lightly. While membership numbers in the hate groups organizations may be uncertain, the researcher agrees with Morris Dees's statement of "the mixture of armed groups with those who hate is a recipe for disaster." For instance, the FBI confiscated a copy of an extremist newsletter on a computer disk which said in part:

Hit and run tactics will be our method centers, bridges, fuel storage tanks, communications towers, radio stations, airports, etc...human targets will be engaged when it is beneficial to the cause to eliminate particular individuals who oppose us (troops, police, political figures, snitches, et).<sup>52</sup>

Concerning military recruitment, the number of identified extremists or soldiers that are actively participating in such groups in the Army is low-- when compared to the overall strength of the Army for over the years. According to the Task Force ordered by Mr. Togo West, extremist groups are not prevalent in the military. Activities displayed by soldiers participating in extremist behaviors within the military can only be observed at isolated times and instances. Soldiers do not see such

activities as compatible with military service. However, the Army's policy concerning participation in extremist organizations is not clear to soldiers or commanders.<sup>53</sup> The researcher believes that, in the future, the military will continue to be sensitive to extremist groups and their activities in the U. S. However, this does not take away from the fact that, an extremist person or persons would not have a chance to gain some ground in the military. After all, the military in many respects is a microcosm of the large society in which we live. The military expects that when an extremist action occurs by an active duty military person(s), such behavior will not be tolerated.

Extremist groups must receive close attention, given their revolutionary posture. It is not just the duty of the FBI, military leadership, and the press, but all citizens to monitor, report, and hold individuals who do commit hate crimes accountable for their actions. However, monitoring and reporting should not violate individual or group rights and beliefs. When the opinions of these individuals or groups become actions against people and property, it becomes a serious legal and ethical matter calling for stringent legal remedies.

## The Glossary

**Aryan** - a term derived from mythology and used within the white supremacist movement to refer to people and cultures of northern Europe.

**Citizenship, 14th Amendment** - in Christian Patriot circles "14th Amendment citizen" is used as a euphemism for people of color, the implication is that their citizenship and rights thereunder are "alienable" and therefore inferior to white state citizens.

**Extremist** - A group, individual, or organization that espouse supremacist causes; advocate illegal discrimination based on race, religion, color, gender, or national origin; encourage the use of unlawful force or violence; and deprive individuals of their civil rights." (AR 600-20 "Army Command Policies and Procedures, Proposed)

**Hate Crime** - Defined by the United States Department of Justice as, "crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on race, religion, sexual orientation, or ethnicity, including where appropriate the crimes of murder, non-negligent manslaughter, forcible rape, aggravated assault, simple assault, intimidation, arson; and destruction, damage or vandalism of property.

**Militia** call themselves, the volunteer armed forces of a state. They were powerful groups of autonomous armed forces until 1916 when they were reorganized as the National Guard and made an auxiliary to the Armed Forces. Many extreme Second Amendment activists and Christian Patriot-types claim the right to form "organized" and "unorganized" militias because the National Guard, as a federalized auxiliary to the Armed forces, is not a militia. Furthermore, these same activists claim that the Second Amendment guarantees them the right to form such militias.

**Neo-Nazi** - describes individuals or organizations whose ideology directly resembles or attempts to resemble that of the German Nazi Party or one of its factions.

**Northern Michigan Militia** - already in 70 of Michigan's 83 counties, claims 12,000 recruits since March. State commander Norm Olson, was an Air Force officer and is a minister and gun store owner.

**The Northwest Territorial Imperative Movement** is a strategy for the formation of a "Northwest Aryan Republic," usually occupying the five-state area of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

**OI** - a musical form arising from punk music in the late 1970s adopted by the skinhead sub-culture (identified most often with neo-Nazi skinheads). The term Oi is Cockney meaning "He" and is not necessarily a racist term.

**"Posse Comitatus"** Movement means from a literal translation, "the power of the county." The implication is that able-bodied citizens of county or district are able to come to the aid of legitimate authorities when called to do so.

**Unorganized Militia Of United States** - is the only militia known to be organized nationally was created by Linda Thompson, an Indianapolis attorney, after the federal assault on the Branch Davidian compound in Waco, Texas. Thompson heads the American Justice Federation, specializing in litigation against the federal government. She named herself "Acting Adjutant General" of the militia last April, when she called for an armed march on Washington and treason trials for congressional "traitors" whom she charges flouted the Constitution.

**White Power** - is an empowering philosophy of White racial nationalism and ethnicity. It refers to a diverse range of philosophies from leftist national Socialism, to White Pride, to rightist White Supremacy. They advocate love of race. Because of that, they are strongly opposed to any attempts to harm it by means of loss of territory, loss of economic or political self-determination, loss of cultural identity, disenfranchisement or race mixing. In order to preserve their race and its interests, they are often willing to engage in hostile acts against perceived threat to it.

**White Separatist Movement** - is a euphemism for white supremacist. The label has been adopted by individuals and organizations in order to obscure or present a more benevolent facade to their belief in Jim Crow segregation and neo-Nazism. This term should not be used interchangeable with white supremacist.

**ZOG** (Zionist Occupation Government) - is a euphemism for those governments which purport to represent white people while actually subscribing to an anti-white agenda. These governments often put "Israel First," while seconding the interests and desires of racial and nationalist whites for the interests of multi-racial societies and world government.



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